



At its peak, the Ironton steel plant was one of the largest in the United States. *Courtesy of O. Blaine Larson.*

transportation costs and competing markets, they now employed a large staff, and, having been reincorporated under the ownership of Jesse Knight, were having good success. In 1914 a new cutting and sewing department had been added and a new building constructed to house it. Mackinaws, flannel shirts, and heavy blankets were now produced for markets in the colder northern states.

The mills were at their peak of productivity when, in July of 1918, just three months before the termina-

tion of World War I, a fire struck. It was thought to have been caused by spontaneous combustion in the wool drier. The *Provo Post* estimated the loss to be more than \$500,000. From this fire, without question the greatest destruction in Provo's history, the woolen mills never fully recovered.

Steel

During World War I L. F. Rains's efforts to secure money for the steel industry in Utah Valley materialized. As a member of the Columbia Steel